

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 00066 022114Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /045 W

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R 021239Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3150

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0066

FOLLOWING TEL BOMBAY 0013 DTD 02 JAN 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJECT: VISIT WITH CHIEF MINISTER CHAVAN

ON SHORT NOTICE, CHIEF MINISTER CHAVAN GRANTED ME MY INITIAL AUDIENCE TODAY. FIFTEEN MINUTE EXCHANGE WAS LARGELY UNEVENTFUL. WHEN HE ASKED HOW I WAS GETTING ALONG, I REPLIED THAT I HAD FOUND MY RECEPTION MOST FRIENDLY, BUT CONFESSED TO SOME MOMENTS OF APPREHENSION. I EXPLAINED THAT I FEARED THAT SOME OF PROCEEDINGS AT CHANDIGARH WOULD SUGGEST TO SOME OF MY CONTACTS THAT I MIGHT FIGURE AMONG THE FOREIGN ELEMENTS THE CONGRESS PARTY BELIEVES TO BE TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S EMERGENCY PROGRAM. HE SMILED AND ASSURED ME THAT I WOULD HEAR ABOUT IT FROM THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES DIRECTLY IF THAT WERE THE CASE. HE FENDED OFF FURTHER CONVERSATION ALONG THIS LINE BY INQUIRING ABOUT AMERICAN INTENT IN HELPING WITH ELECTRICITY NEEDS OF MAHARASHTA STATE. DISCUSSION THEN RETURNED TO EXCHANGE OF AMENITIES AND REITERATION OF GOOD INTENTIONS ON BOTH SIDES. ON WHOLE I FOUND CHAVAN MORE FRIENDLY AND OUTGOING THAN I HAD EXPECTED. HE CERTAINLY SHOWED NO DESIRE TO EXTEND NATIONAL CONGRESS LINE OF SUSPICION OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS EXPRESSED AT CHANDIGARH TO LOCAL LEVEL.
COURTNEY

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UNQUOTE

SAXBE

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